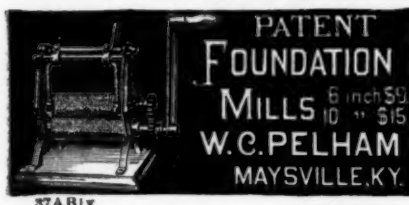


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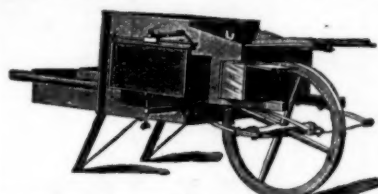


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ESTABLISHED IN
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Chicago, Ill., November 5, 1884.

VOL. XX.—No. 45.

THE AMERICAN
BEE JOURNAL
PUBLISHED BY
THOMAS G. NEWMAN,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
925 WEST MADISON ST., CHICAGO, ILL.
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Constitution and By-Laws, for local Associations, \$2 per 100. The name of the Association printed in the blanks 50c. extra.

Ribbon Badges, for bee-keepers, on which are printed a large bee in gold, 10c. each, or \$8 per 100.

Poulterer's Guide, for treating diseases of Poultry, etc., by C. J. WARD. Price 25c.

Weekly Bee Journal,

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE PRODUCERS OF HONEY.

VOL. XX.

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THE AMERICAN
BEE JOURNAL

Published every Wednesday, by

THOMAS G. NEWMAN,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

The National Convention.

As we were unable to be present at the meeting of the North American Bee-Keepers' Society, last week, (not feeling well enough to leave home), we sent a reporter, so as to be able to present our readers with a detailed account of the proceedings, as early as possible. Our reporter wrote us on Oct. 28, as follows:

Your correspondent and reporter cannot resist the temptation to narrate "the wanderings of a pilgrim" in search of the annual meeting of the North American Bee-Keepers' Society. The last notice that he saw in the BEE JOURNAL, prior to starting for Rochester, closed by saying that particulars as to place of meeting would be given "hereafter". Supposing that the time of assembling would be 10 a. m., he rode on the cars all night, arriving in Rochester at 7 a. m. The morning papers which he got on the train, gave no notice of the hour or the place of meeting. One of them said, "The North American Bee-Keepers' Society will commence its annual meeting in the city to-day."

On reaching the city, he set out in search of the convention, called at several hotels, and at two or three stores where honey was sold, but failed to learn anything more about the meeting. Sallying out after breakfast, he recognized among the pedestrians on the sidewalk, the pale but familiar face of Silas M. Locke, of Salem, Mass., from whom he learned that the City Hall was the place of meeting, 2 p. m., the hour, and the Litster House the Apicultural Head-quarters. Mr. Locke kindly guided him to where Messrs. L. C. Root, W. E. Clarke, F. C. Benedict, and others of the early arrivals could be found, so that he was very soon at home. During the forenoon, Messrs. I. Barber, R. Bacon, F. Bacon, J. Thompson, and perhaps a dozen more turned up at the City Hall, and an hour or two of good fellowship was enjoyed.

Your correspondent blames nobody, but it was unfortunate that the hour and place of meeting were left to be announced "hereafter". The President and Secretary state that notification of time and place was sent to the bee-periodicals, and are at a loss to know why the information was not put before the public. The Editor of the BEE JOURNAL can, no doubt, clear himself from the "soft impeachment" herein implied, and others are hereby invited to "do likewise."

Our correspondent must have been asleep, or dreaming! On page 660 of the BEE JOURNAL for Oct. 15, is an editorial notice stating that the meeting was "to be held at the City Hall, in Rochester, N. Y., commencing at 1 p. m., on Tuesday, Oct. 28, and continuing three days." It is a fact, however, that the Railroad and Hotel arrangements have not been published, and this probably was what vexed our correspondent, and made him call for an explanation.

The BEE JOURNAL can very easily clear itself from the slightest blame in this matter. We presume that the cause was a complication of circumstances; unavoidable, perhaps, but none the less perplexing. We do not know why the Committee did not make their arrangements earlier, nor why the notice was not sent direct to the BEE JOURNAL, seeing there was no time to lose in order to give even one insertion of such an important matter.

The facts are that the notice was sent to the Secretary, Dr. Miller, of Marengo, Ill., while he was in attendance at the Chicago Convention, and he did not return to his home until the evening of Oct. 20. He wrote the "notice" next morning and we received it on Oct. 22, one day after every number of the last BEE JOURNAL before the meeting, had been sent out to subscribers. Had the notice been sent to the BEE JOURNAL direct, it would have duly appeared.

Accompanying the notice, Dr. Miller wrote us that he feared "it would not be in time." He was not well during the Convention, and for that reason

was absent at one session and he did not return to Marengo as soon as the Convention adjourned, but remained at Austin, with his wife, with some friends. On this account he seemed to think it was his fault that the notice could not be published, and he added:

"Although there is some excuse, it is my fault. I think it may be as well for you to say as much, for it is possible that the BEE JOURNAL may be blamed for the delay."

We think this explanation will wholly clear us of blame in the matter. We regret that the notice was not in time, for we have always done all we could to further the interests of the National Society, as our readers must be well aware. We regret this circumstance the more so, because some of the Eastern apiarists have an idea that those in the West are not in accord with them. This idea, however, is unfounded and should be instantly dismissed. The Western apiarists are united and harmonious, and will, if permitted, labor with all others for the best interests of the fraternity in America.

We announce with pleasure the fact that the Continental Convention was well attended, and, so far as heard from, the deliberations were conducted so as to merit universal approbation. For the next place of meeting Detroit was unanimously selected, and from the fact that it is centrally located and easy of access from all sections of the United States as well as Canada, there will doubtless be a large attendance.

We publish as much of the Report in this JOURNAL as we have received, and will give the rest next week.

TRIAL SUBSCRIBERS.—The Weekly BEE JOURNAL will be sent to any new subscriber in North America from now until the end of 1884 for 25 cents. This offer is intended to aid those who are getting up clubs at Fairs, Conventions, etc., and should add several thousand to our readers during the next month.

honey began to come in, were severally advocated. Finally, the sense of the meeting on the subject was embodied in the following, which was moved by Mr. F. C. Benedict, seconded by Mr. Peet, and unanimously carried:

Resolved. That this Convention can give no fixed rules for the entire prevention of swarming while producing comb honey; but the following methods tend to its prevention: plenty of room, air, shade, and introducing young queens at the beginning of the surplus honey harvest.

Wm. F. Clarke drew the attention of the Convention to the desirableness of some provision for social intercourse among the members of the Society. Some of them were busy reporting, others were occupied with business on committees, or with the introduction and sale of apiarian fixtures, during the intervals between meetings. His namesake, W. E. Clark, said that last year, at Toronto, the sociality was the best part of the meeting. He wanted to get personally acquainted with the bee-keepers, and he thought that that was a general feeling. The President and others followed up the suggestion, and finally it was moved by W. E. Clark, seconded by Wm. F. Clarke, and unanimously

Resolved. That it be an instruction to the committee on programme to arrange for a social time during part of this evening's session.

The Convention then adjourned to meet at 7 p. m.

SECOND SESSION.

The Convention met at 7:30 p. m., First Vice-President, L. C. Root, being in the chair.

The committee on programme reported to resume consideration of the second question transmitted by Mr. A. J. Fisher, viz: "When we as bee-keepers cry down adulteration, are we working to our interests when we use full sheets of foundation in our surplus boxes? especially if we use seven or eight feet to the pound are not we ourselves ruining our markets?"

Mr. Hall, of Ontario, used foundation 7 or 8 feet to the pound, and was never troubled with "fishbone," as it is called. He had tried foundation 10 or 12 feet to the pound, but it was difficult to keep it straight; it would curl. He had used foundation 4 feet to the pound in the brood-chamber, and found that the bees drew it out very thin, so that if you sold a sheet of it to a dealer it cut up into pound and half-pound squares, and gave satisfaction to customers. He had never had any complaint about "fishbone."

Mr. Benedict said that bee-keepers must be careful in using very thin foundation in section-boxes, otherwise the sale of honey would be injured.

Mr. S. T. Pettit, of Ontario, thought that we were starting an unreal difficulty. He heard nothing of "fishbone" in comb honey, except at conventions. He deprecated creating a prejudice when there was no need for it.

Mr. W. E. Clark, of New York, concurred with Mr. Pettit.

Mr. Peet, of New York, narrated a case of objection to comb honey, on the part of a purchaser, because of a hard centre.

Mr. Locke, of Massachusetts, gave an account of comb honey with a centre wall that resembled chewing gum when taken between the teeth.

Mr. Vandervort, of Pennsylvania, was of the opinion that when thin foundation was used, no one could tell the difference between comb honey with and that without foundation. He and four of his neighbors shipped a car load of comb honey to New York, and out of the five lots only one was natural comb. It was the least salable of any of the lots. The four lots with foundation in them were more salable, and brought a better price in the market than the other lot.

Mr. C. C. Van Deusen had tried foundation of various thicknesses, and while some of the thicker samples were characterized by objectionable "fishbone," the thinner ones were free from the objection.

Mr. Vandervort said that when the right foundation was used, even an expert could not tell it from the natural comb. He, himself, had been deceived several times.

President Root thought that much of the objection to foundation in surplus sections arose from its being a novelty and an innovation. He remembered when mowing machines first came around, what opposition there was to them on the part of many farmers. It was so with many things. There was no doubt that in some respects art was an improvement on nature. We certainly get more attractive and marketable honey by the use of comb foundation, and it was in no sense an adulteration, since both natural comb and comb foundation were alike made of beeswax.

It was moved by Mr. Peet, and seconded by Mr. R. Bacon, "That it is the sense of this Convention that it is detrimental to our honey trade to use, in section-boxes, comb foundation less than 10 feet to the pound."

Mr. Hall, of Ontario, could not concur in the resolution, as his experience was against it. He used none lighter than 8 feet to the pound, and he got beautiful comb honey, so nice that Dr. C. C. Miller thought it must have been produced by the use of separators.

Mr. Locke had seen Mr. Hall's honey for two or three seasons, and could testify that it was first-class.

The resolution was put to a rising vote, when a large number voted, many did not vote, and only two rose in opposition. The President, therefore, declared the resolution carried.

A motion was made by W. E. Clark, and seconded by S. T. Pettit, that a committee of five be appointed by the chairman to consider what modifications, if any, should be made in the North American Bee-Keepers' Society.

Mr. Wm. F. Clarke, of Ontario, spoke at some length on this resolution. He said that he was the only member present who was at the or-

ganization of the Society, and claimed the indulgence of the meeting in a brief review of its history. It was first intended to call the Society by the name "National," but at his request it was called "North American," so as to include Canada. It was often called the "National Society," but it would be more proper to call it the "Inter-National," for such was its real character, and such he hoped it would continue. At the inception of the Society, there was a ring or clique among bee-keepers, which the organization was the means of breaking up, and he boldly affirmed that there had never been a ring or clique managing the Society. Some appeared to think that the Society had had its day, and that there were those who wished to split it into three fragments, the Northeastern, the Northwestern, and the Southern; personally, he hoped that this would not be done. It was true that the constituency was a vast one, and we usually had a large local attendance with but a small distant representation. But there was a prestige about a Continental body which gave it a good influence, and rendered its meetings important. It was an educating power wherever held. He would deprecate a division of the Society into three, mainly because it would destroy its international character. Canada and the United States had been happily united in this apicultural fellowship, and he hoped that it would continue. He had no doubt that the Society might be modified and improved in various respects, but he would not like to see it broken up.

Mr. Clarke's remarks were well received, and several members expressed concurrence in the opinion that the integrity of the Society should be maintained, and that it should continue to embrace both Canada and the United States. The resolution was unanimously passed, and the President appointed the following committee: Ira Barber, Wm. F. Clarke, W. E. Clark, Arthur Todd, and J. Van Deusen.

The meeting then adjourned, and passed about an hour in free, social converse.

THIRD SESSION.

The Convention came to order at 10 a. m., with President Root in the chair, the attendance being about double that of yesterday. Enrollment of members was the first order of business. It was decided to accept 50 cents as the membership fee for the current year. The following then gave in their names to the Secretary, and paid their dues, with the exception of the ladies, who are admitted free, according to the Constitution of the Society:

Thomas Pierce, Gansevoort, N. Y.
S. B. Wheeler, Union City, Pa.
U. E. Dodge, Fredonia, N. Y.
L. C. Root, Mohawk, N. Y.
G. H. Ashby, Albion, N. Y.
W. Bacon, Delta, N. Y.
C. J. Densmore, Livonia Station, N. Y.
E. C. Campbell, Cayuga, Ont.
G. W. Patting, Sciploville, N. Y.
R. Bacon, Verona, N. Y.
O. G. Russell, Albion, N. Y.
M. M. Wright, Castile, N. Y.

J. Van Deusen, Sprout Brook, N. Y.
 Geo. K. Wright, Cambria, N. Y.
 W. E. Moulton, Alexander, N. Y.
 Miles Morton, Groton, N. Y.
 Jesse Mekeel, Poplar Ridge, N. Y.
 Arthur Todd, Germantown, Pa.
 Geo. M. Lawrence, Warsaw, N. Y.
 Theo. O. Peet, Brooklyn, N. Y.
 J. A. Andrews, Philadelphia, Pa.
 E. W. Thompson, Hinsdale, N. Y.
 Chas. S. Hurlbut, West Bethany, N. Y.
 W. L. Cogshall, West Groton, N. Y.
 E. W. Landon, Brockton, N. Y.
 W. G. Fish, Ithaca, N. Y.
 Chas. Faville, South Wales, N. Y.
 O. G. Smith, Seneca Falls, N. Y.
 O. H. Sage, Churchville, N. Y.
 Wm. Bray, Gainesville, N. Y.
 Ed. Hutchinson, East Avon, N. Y.
 Elias Mott, Norwich, Ont.
 F. C. Burmaster, Irving, N. Y.
 Dr. J. P. H. Brown, Augusta, Ga.
 L. S. Newman, Peoria, N. Y.
 S. M. Puhl, South Toledo, Ohio.
 N. N. Betsinger, Marcellus, N. Y.
 Ira Barber, De Kalb Junction, N. Y.
 S. C. Sleeper, Holland, N. Y.
 J. Vandervort, Laceyville, Pa.
 C. C. Van Deusen, Sproutbrook, N. Y.
 J. L. Schofield, Chenango Bridge, N. Y.
 Geo. Wickwire, Weston's Mills, N. Y.
 Wm. Ellis, St. David's, Ont.
 W. L. Foster, Warner's, N. Y.
 S. T. Pettit, Belmont, Ont.
 Miss Louisa Pettit, Belmont, Ont.
 L. H. Baumister, Rochester, N. Y.
 J. B. Hall, Woodstock, Ont.
 Mrs. Thos. Whiteneck, Tuscarora, N. Y.
 Thos. Whiteneck, Tuscarora, N. Y.
 J. D. Weaver, Penfield, N. Y.
 Wm. F. Clarke, Speedside, Ont.
 F. C. Benedict, Perry Center, N. Y.
 Mrs. F. C. Benedict, Perry Center, N. Y.
 W. E. Clark, Oriskany, N. Y.
 C. R. Isham, Peoria, N. Y.
 G. W. Stanley, Wyoming, N. Y.
 J. E. Stanley, Wyoming, N. Y.
 S. M. Locke, Salem, Mass.

On recommendation of the Programme Committee, it was agreed to hear the communication on Marketing Honey, etc., forwarded by Mr. T. G. Newman, Editor of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL. It was then read by the Secretary as follows:

MARKETING HONEY, ETC.

Mr. President, and Members of the North American Bee-Keepers' Society:

I am requested to send you a short article on the above subject, but I shall not attempt to go over the well-defined and oft-repeated rudimentary rules for the management and preparing honey for the markets of the world. These items have been fully discussed at previous meetings, and I have nothing further to add to the views already expressed. But there is one thing that it will be well to discuss, and not to leave it there, but to appoint a committee whose duty it shall be to address the railroad companies of America and demand, in the name of this Society, redress in the matter of the classification of bees and honey.

Hives of bees are classed at double first-class rates, which is very unjust—making the charges equal to those for sending by express. Then, by the mistaken use of the word "hive" for colony—empty hives are, by many railroads, classed the same as those containing bees, greatly to the detriment of those who buy hives from manufacturers. They should go as "empty boxes," at about one-eighth of the cost now demanded for freight by some railroads.

In the matter of shipping honey to market—the classification is so high that it amounts to almost a robbery—

and to seek relief, some bee-keepers ship extracted honey as "syrup," at less than half the rates demanded for honey. Tariffs ought to be revised, and liquid honey should be rated the same as syrup.

Those bee-keepers who have a desire to be exactly right, and feel delicate about the matter of shipping honey as syrup, are, therefore, compelled to pay double the amount which their less scrupulous neighbors have to pay for freight to the large marts of the world.

Some grades of syrup sell as high as honey, and there is no reason why both should not be graded alike, when one is as easily and cheaply handled as the other.

Regretting my inability to be present, allow me to suggest that you appoint a committee to confer with the different railroad companies, and instruct them to endeavor to get these things adjusted on an equitable and reasonable basis.

Hoping that your Convention will be entirely harmonious and successful, I remain fraternally yours,

THOS. G. NEWMAN.

Mr. Pettit, in commenting upon the communication, urged the importance of taking more trouble to get grocers and others to keep honey for sale, saying that much more honey would be sold annually if people could buy it from the grocers.

Mr. Van Deusen said that the reason why some grocers refuse to handle honey is because of the leakage.

Mr. Pettit stated that in Ontario, honey is put into boxes and glassed on one side, and tissue paper is put on the bottom so as to prevent leaking.

Mr. Dodge related his experience in trying to market both extracted and granulated honey. He believed that the difficulty in disposing of extracted honey is owing to the fact that they do not ask a high enough price for the extracted in comparison with the honey in the comb. The very little higher price charged for extracted honey, over honey in comb, suggests adulteration.

W. E. Clark explained that the local market in Oneida county could have been kept at 20 cents per pound, had not a man, who happened to have a good crop, rushed into the market and was in such a hurry to sell, that he broke the market. He advocated holding on to honey. He advised that holders should not all endeavor to sell under each other, causing a glut and lower prices.

Mr. Betsinger advocated making efforts to secure reduced freight rates, and urged that the local market be watched and not overloaded under any circumstances. It is a fact, he said, that extracted honey must be sold for less than comb honey, because it can be prepared at about half the cost of comb honey. The latter will always be a luxury, and never can a great demand be created for a luxury. He would encourage the use of extracted honey because of the large consumption of honey, especially in the place of other materials; butter, for instance.

Mr. Bacon believed that the trouble in marketing honey is, that people are not properly educated, else they would understand the fact that comb honey costs more than extracted honey, and would not believe that any "hookery" is going on when they buy comb honey at a higher price than extracted honey. Mr. Dodge said that he agreed with Mr. Clark that local markets could be built up to a certain extent, but where a dealer has 8,000 or 10,000 pounds, he must find a market beyond the producers, and he wanted to know how he could get a market for his extracted honey.

Theo. O. Peet said that extracted honey is not as good as comb honey, unless it be extracted after the cells are capped, and then it cannot be extracted at much less expense than comb honey.

Mr. Hall said that there was a deluge of honey during the latter part of June, at which time honey was sold at 10 cents a pound, and finally at 9 cents by J. W. Hall & Co. These men who go wild with their honey, should be treated with contempt, because they cannot be controlled nor educated.

Mr. Will Ellis explained that the great cause in the fall in prices is, that the producers, instead of the consumers, manage to cut prices by competition.

Mr. Vandervort said that he has sustained his severest losses by trying to get more for his honey than it would bring. He has sold his honey for what it would bring, spent his money, gone to work to get another crop, and kept out of the poor-house.

Mr. Bacon said that the market for honey is injured by some slouchy men who send honey into the market in dirty boxes, causing dealers to beat down producers who have nicely prepared honey, to the same prices at which they can furnish the article in the poor and dirty boxes.

Mr. Pierce stated that he had met with just such experience in selling comb honey. He had found that nice honey put in clean boxes would find a good market as soon as the producer's reputation is established.

A question having been handed in by Mr. U. E. Dodge, of Fredonia, N. Y., bearing on the same subject, it was agreed to consider it in connection with Mr. Newman's communication. The question was, "How and when shall we market our extracted honey?" It was moved by Mr. Peet, and seconded by Mr. Hall,

Resolved, That this convention recommend to bee-keepers, the desirableness of taking more care in placing our honey on the market in the most attractive manner, both extracted and comb honey, and attaching their names thereto; and that they discountenance all efforts to beat down the market by slovenly bee-keepers and dealers who adulterate it.

In reference to the railroad rates of freight on honey, brought before the meeting by Mr. Newman, Mr. L. C. Root said that he believed that the point made by Mr. Newman, regarding railroad freights, was well taken,

and that a committee be appointed as suggested.

Mr. Bacon moved the appointment of a committee of three to consult with the railroad authorities regarding rates. The motion prevailed, and then it was suggested by Mr. Root that the matter be left to the Vice-Presidents of the Society.

A motion was next made to reconsider the motion previously adopted, which was carried, and the convention voted to adjourn until 1:30 p. m.

At the adjournment of the morning session, the members assembled on the front steps of the City Hall, and the group was photographed.

FOURTH SESSION.

The Convention was called to order at 2 p. m., with the President in the chair. At the suggestion of the programme committee, reports from Vice-Presidents were read as follows: O. O. Poppleton, Iowa; Dr. J. P. H. Brown, Georgia, and W. S. Hart, Florida.

Wm. F. Clarke, of Ontario, was then called upon to read his paper on

WINTERING BEES.

The subject of wintering bees is in a chaotic state. Our best bee-keepers frankly admit that we have no absolutely safe methods of wintering bees. There is no method before the public that has not proved a failure in some seasons and under certain circumstances. All must own that as yet we are only learners on the subject.

While almost every other branch of bee-keeping has made wonderful progress during the last 20 years, wintering has been at a standstill. It seems clear to my mind that all trouble is traceable to the fact that we have overlooked a principle of bee life not wholly unknown to us, but whose vital importance is not sufficiently appreciated. I refer to hibernation. Hibernation is a term often employed in general literature to express simply the idea of passing the winter; but in the world of science it stands for that state of complete or partial torpor into which bees sink at the advent of cold weather. Let me lay down the proposition that bees in a cold climate invariably sink into this torpor; also the proposition that when provided with proper shelter and sufficient food they winter well if they can hibernate.

The hibernation of bees is no new discovery. What I claim, and all that I claim in regard to the hibernation of bees is the discovery that furnishes the key with which to solve the winter problem. Mr. Clarke cited proofs of the two propositions, and continued: At the meeting of the Northwestern Bee-Keepers' Society, held in Chicago two weeks ago, Mr. Heddon said this question of wintering was not one of cellars, ventilation, pieces of wood and laths, quilts and cushions over the combs. What killed our bees was diarrhoea? I take up the question and unhesitatingly say, inability to hibernate. If bees can get into this condition and maintain it while cold weather lasts, they will not have diarrhoea. If they cannot, they will infallibly contract the disease.

I venture to assert that if you will give bees a domicile impervious at the top, having side walls, so that frost will not strike through and condense vapor inside, give them food, and supply a perpendicular air-column beneath, you will solve the winter problem. The great desideratum is pure air and plenty of it in a receptacle not too large for them to regulate the temperature. To warm a receptacle by holes at the top, is as hopeless as it is to attempt to fill a perforated tub with water. Why do the bees propolize holes as big as a pin-hole at the top of their hives? Because instinct teaches them to retain all the heat they make. The bees generate their own heat, and if it be wasted, they must consume too much food, and then they become distended with feces and cannot sink into perfect quiet, which is the normal condition in winter.

Mr. Clarke discussed cellars, clamps and bee-houses, and pointed out the objections to these modes of wintering bees. In speaking of chaff-hives, he said: If these hives were placed two feet from the ground, and an air shaft was put in below, they would meet all conditions for hibernation. Want of air and excess of food cause diarrhoea. If the hives are too warm or too cold the bees eat too much, and the bodies are distended and must have relief. They eat more than they can get rid of in dry powdery excreta, they become diseased and die. When in too cold hives the bees eat large quantities of honey to generate heat, and the same fatal result happens. Bees want in addition to what we give them, pure air; only that and nothing more.

Mr. Clarke described a hive-stand, a model of which he exhibited. It was so constructed as to give the bees a vertical air-shaft under the hive. He requested each bee-keeper present to give his method a trial with at least one colony of bees the coming winter. Concluding, the speaker said of his method: "It involves no moving of hives from summer stands. It saves expense and the trouble connected with cellars, clamps and bee-houses, and it is confidently believed it will prove a remedy for bee-diarrhoea and for spring dwindling. The only objection to the method is that it will so simplify bee-keeping that it will be common and greatly lessen the profits of bee-keepers."

A spirited discussion arose on Mr. Clarke's essay. Mr. Barber gave an account of his wintering bees in a warm cellar, from 48° to 58° above zero.

Mr. Hall corroborated Mr. Barber's statement. He found that his bees were quiet anywhere from 48° to 56° above zero if the temperature were raised gradually; if raised suddenly, they became uneasy. He had but a small per cent. of losses when wintering them in a warm place.

Mr. Clarke stated that no doubt bees could be wintered in a warm place; they were so wintered in the South, but the question was, "What was the normal condition of bees during winter in a cold climate?"

Also, as to the consumption of honey?" While hibernating, they consumed very little honey; if kept warm, the consumption would be greater. It was a great thing to save even five pounds of honey per colony, and multiplying that by all the colonies kept on this continent, see the immense saving. We were so demoralized about wintering bees that we were glad to get our colonies through alive, though with depleted numbers, exhausted stores, and in poor condition. They might survive, and yet not be well wintered. He had shown that if fixed so as to hibernate, they would winter well in all respects.

Mr. Pettit deprecated the idea going abroad that bees might be wintered on from 2 to 6 pounds of honey.

Mr. Clarke replied that the idea would do no harm if connected with the condition that they hibernated.

Several members expressed interest in the hibernation theory, and a purpose to try the plan during the coming winter.

The President spoke favorably of the essay, and hoped that its positions would be fully and fairly tested.

Mr. Clarke said that if bee-keepers would try the hibernation method during the coming winter, they would be in a position to discuss the matter more intelligently a year hence.

The next place of meeting was then considered, the result being that Detroit, Mich., was chosen by a large majority, and then made the unanimous choice of the Convention.

The election of officers was the next order of business, with the following result:

President.—L. C. Root, Mohawk, N. Y.
First V.-Pr.—H. D. Cutting, Clinton, Mich.
Sec.—W. Z. Hutchinson, Rogersville, Mich.
Treasurer.—C. F. Muth, Cincinnati, Ohio.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Vermont—A. E. Manum,
Massachusetts—J. E. Pond, Jr.,
New York—W. E. Clark,
Delaware—W. J. Gibbons,
Virginia—J. W. Porter,
Georgia—Dr. J. P. H. Brown,
Florida—W. S. Hart,
Mississippi—Dr. O. M. Blanton,
Louisiana—Paul L. Viallon,
Texas—W. H. Andrews,
Kentucky—W. C. Pelham,
Tennessee—W. P. Henderson,
Ohio—A. I. Root,
Illinois—Dr. C. C. Miller,
Iowa—O. O. Poppleton,
Missouri—C. M. Crandall,
Wisconsin—George Grimm,
Kansas—Jerome Twichell,
Nebraska—M. L. Trester,
Ontario—S. T. Pettit,
Manitoba—Chief Justice Wallbridge,
Quebec—H. F. Hunt.

It was voted that a committee be appointed by the President to fill vacancies in the list of Vice-Presidents. The following were so nominated: Messrs. Peet, Vandervort, and C. C. Van Deusen.

It was moved by Wm. F. Clarke, seconded by J. B. Hall, and unanimously

Resolved, That the President, First Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Miss Lucy A. Wilkins (Cyula Linawik), of Farwell, Mich., and A. B. Weed, of Detroit, be the executive committee of the Society for the ensuing year.

The subject of reversible frames was mentioned by the President, and

J. Van Deusen asked to open a discussion on it; but it being close on the hour of adjournment, it was deemed best to defer the matter until the evening session.

Proofs of the photograph taken at noon were then produced by the Secretary, and it was announced that copies could be had for \$2 each.

The meeting then adjourned.

Iowa Wild Honey.

The Hon. A. R. Fulton, of Des Moines, one of the old-timers in Iowa, and one of the best collators of facts in the history of the State, has an interesting article in the last *Annals of Iowa*, on the golden days of the bees in that State, from which we condense the following:

There are those who remember that, away back in the "forties," in the States further east, we used to read and hear of "Iowa honey," an article then as highly-prized and as much sought-for as the "California honey" has been with us at a later period. At that time Iowa was literally a land of wild honey; nor has there since been anything in our experience to disprove her right to the claim of being the special habitat of the honey-bee. The great profusion of wild flowers, though they bloomed and blushed unseen by human eye, afforded a delicious pasturage for the myriads of colonies of honey-bees which were snugly housed through the winter months in the trunks of the tall trees of the forests bordering on the water-courses.

During the autumn months a favorite pastime and source of profit among the pioneer adventurers was bee-hunting. By watching a single bee as it took its flight, laden with its rich burden, the experienced bee-hunter could determine with certainty nearly the exact locality of its treasure-house. The bee-hunter had only to take the "course" and follow it in a direct line to the timber. Generally, before penetrating far into the forest, he could observe the converging lines of bees as they returned, laden with the sweets of the prairie, to the common line. Then it was only necessary to keep a sharp lookout for some hollow knot or opening, far up in some tall tree, to discover the depository of the precious treasure. After a brief search, this was generally discovered, and known to a certainty by the thousands of little workers entering the hive or departing therefrom. Then it was only necessary for the hunter to mark the tree with his initials to insure its safety and protection as his own property, against any and all other claims, until the season arrived for securing the honey. If a "bee-tree" was found to be "marked," it was a rule, invariably observed as a matter of honor, to leave it unmolested.

The timber lands bordering on the Skunk river (by the Indians called the *Che-cau-que*) were especially noted as

the paradise of the bee-hunters, and in advance of any permanent settlement of this country, parties of them penetrated that region in quest of honey. Several incidents, the details of which are in the possession of the writer, will serve to show something as to the nature of this primitive, Iowa industry.

In October, 1835, one, John Huff, who subsequently settled in Jefferson county, accompanied by a lad named Levi Johnson, went to the west side of the Skunk river and encamped, a short distance above where the village of Rome, in Henry County, is now situated. At this latter point, at that time, there was a trading-post kept by one, William McPherson, as the Sac and Fox Indians still occupied that region. The purpose of Mr. Huff and his young companion was to spend a month in bee-hunting. They continued to ramble through the heavy timber skirting the river and its tributaries, until the middle of November, when they began preparations for returning to the Mississippi. Huff had collected eighty gallons of honey, and Johnson about forty, which was put into barrels manufactured by themselves at their camp.

The river now beginning to rise a little, they prepared a couple of canoes or "dug-outs," into which they placed their freight, consisting of three barrels of honey, guns, axes and auger, with some other tools and camping utensils; also a small stock of provisions, including five dressed, wild turkeys and some venison. Passengers and freight being aboard, they set out on their voyage for Illinois, being, so far as we know, the first craft manned by white men, that ever navigated the waters of the Skunk river from a point so far up as the place of the embarkation. With the two canoes lashed together, they glided along smoothly until about sundown, when they ran upon a "sawyer," which capsized the canoes, turning the contents into the river, with the exception of one barrel of honey, which, fitting so closely, remained fast in one of the canoes. All the rest of the freight went to the bottom, in twelve feet of water. The canoes were drawn ashore, and the remaining barrel of honey rolled out. In his effort to save the property, Mr. Huff even lost his shoes.

The weather was now becoming quite cold, and the situation was not a pleasant one, but those backwoods-men of early Iowa were not unaccustomed to hardship. Leaving canoes and honey, Mr. Huff, barefooted, set out for Burlington, where he obtained another pair of shoes, and some grappling hooks to use in searching for the sunken freight. Young Johnson returned to his mother's home in the eastern part of Henry county.

After an absence of about twelve days they returned to the scene of their disaster to seek for the lost treasure. By means of the iron hooks, the two barrels of honey were soon recovered, but the other articles were not so easily found. An Indian who was present, agreed, for one dollar, to dive and get the gun. He went down

once, but did not succeed. While he was warming himself for a second trial, Mr. Huff, himself, drew up the gun with the iron hook. The two axes, drawing-knife and auger were found during the next January by cutting a hole in the ice.

Without further disaster, Messrs. Huff and Johnson succeeded in getting their cargo of honey to Carthage, Ill., where they sold it for fifty cents a gallon. During the same season, another party collected, on the east bank of Skunk river and along Big Creek, in Henry county, some fourteen barrels of honey, which they sold in Burlington.

Mr. Huff, himself, declared that, at that early day in Iowa, honey-bees were so plentiful that it was difficult, on a warm day, for a man to keep them from flying into his mouth while eating a piece of honey. In the fall of 1836, he found ten "bee-trees" on a small branch near where Fairfield was subsequently located. He sent the product of this "find" to Carthage, by one, James Lanman, who sold it for \$22.75. During the same year a man named Ballard, settled or encamped on the same small stream, and for a time followed the business of bee-hunting. The stream was afterward known as Ballard's Branch. Ballard's camp was about two miles northeast of Fairfield, and his "claim" embraced the fine grove of timber in that vicinity. As soon, however, as the country began to be settled, he found his occupation gone, became discouraged and went west.

To Canadian subscribers let us say that we have made arrangements so that we can supply the *Farmer's Advocate* of London, Ont., and the *Monthly BEE JOURNAL* for one year at \$1.25 for the two. This is a rare chance to obtain two good papers for about the price of one.

We can supply photographs of Rev. L. L. Langstroth, the Baron of Berlepsch, or Dzierzon, at 25 cts. each.

The Mahoning Valley Bee-keepers will hold their fall meeting in Ravenna, O., on Nov. 14, 1884. A cordial invitation is extended to all.

E. W. TURNER, Sec.
Newton Falls, O.

"WALLS OF CORN" is the title of a neat little pamphlet received from the Department of Immigration of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe R. R., which goes to show that Kansas raises poetry as well as corn, and a high-grade article, too. Mrs. Ellen P. Alerton, a Kansas farmer's wife, wrote a charming little poem entitled "Walls of Corn," which has been handsomely illustrated, with full page colored plates. An appendix of peculiar value to any one desiring information concerning the State, gives the official government figures in a striking comparison of Kansas with other leading agricultural States. Send your name to Mr. C. B. Schmidt, Commissioner of Immigration, A., T. & S. F. R. R., and he will mail a copy FREE to your address.

Stingless Bees of Cuba.

Mr. A. J. King gives the following editorial in the *Bee-Keepers' Magazine*, descriptive of these insects and their habits:

During our stay on the Island of Cuba, we employed much time investigating its honey-flora and the quality of honey produced by each variety.

On one occasion we were examining the flowers of a Royal Palm which, standing at the foot of a rather steep hill and ourself at an elevation, brought the circle of flowers within twenty feet of us, we could, with our powerful field-glass, bring the bees, so to speak, so near that the characteristics of the different kinds were easily discovered. There were wasps, yellow-jackets, bumble-bees and Italians, but what particularly attracted our attention was a little insect, which to our recollection, was exactly like the stingless bees of South America, which we had seen on one or two occasions several years ago, and we at once surmised that they were identical.

After much inquiry we found our surmises correct and that a colony of these delightful insects was in the possession of a native living several miles away in the dense forest, and who was engaged, in a primitive way, in the production of charcoal.

Mr. Pedro Casanova and myself set out on horseback, and arriving at the cabin of the Cuban, just as the sun was going down, discovered the object of our search. The little beauties were located in the section of a hollow log about six inches in diameter and two feet long which was suspended in a horizontal position on the side-wall of the cabin.

A round hole hardly a quarter of an inch in diameter in the center of one end of the log formed the only entrance or exit; the other end was closed with what seemed to be a conglomeration of pollen, wax, resin and some other moist and sticky material.

On looking into the entrance-hole, all we could discover was a little, white, fuzzy head peeking out in a cautious, half-wardly manner. The last of the foragers were just returning, and it was amusing to see how swiftly, yet surely, they would always dart into the little entrance without once missing or having to crawl in, like our ordinary bees.

In all their movements they are as swift as lightning, and we had great difficulty in catching one, but far more in keeping it.

The other end of this log-hive contained a plug, which was withdrawn and several of the honey-bags having been perforated, a tumbler was soon filled with a very delicious but rather thin honey.

This honey is supposed by the natives to possess medicinal properties and is sold at a high price—something like the "bumble-bee honey" in the city, with the difference that the former is real honey while the latter, so far as the bumble-bee is concerned in its production, is a myth, but in either case the medical superi-

ority over ordinary honey must reside entirely in the faith of the patient.

We purchased this hive and taking it on our shoulder, remounted and carried it safely to the Casanova apiary. Here, we fitted up a nice bamboo log for a hive and undertook to drive out the pets, but we found that they would not "drum for a cent." We then tried smoke, with no better result. Finally we procured a saw and by being very cautious, succeeded in separating the log from end to end. Then taking out the nest, pollen, honey, bees and all, we fitted it into the bamboo, left it for three weeks until the bees had it all fastened in, then brought it to New York; but forgetting to wrap it up one cold night, the little inmates had chilled and died.

Many have been the speculations of the would-be wise in regard to these bees, nearly all of which are mistaken notions. The idea that there is any danger in handling them bare-faced and bare-handed is untrue. They will not mix with any variety of our true honey-bees, and they are unprofitable except as objects of curiosity.

A fair-sized colony is composed of one thousand to fifteen hundred bees, occupying a space of perhaps eighteen inches long and four inches in diameter. About five inches from the entrance to their log-hive are the brood-combs, suspended from the roof in parallel rows of four combs.

The combs are nearly round, not as thick as ordinary brood-comb and not more than three inches in diameter. The sacks containing honey and pollen look very much alike, but do not resemble cells in any sense, being somewhat irregular in shape, an inch long and three-quarters of an inch in diameter, and each holds about two table-spoonfuls of honey. They are of a dark color and lie on top, bottom and sides, packed like so many bags of grain, three-fourths of them being filled with pollen and the balance with honey.

In shape these bees are much like the bumble-bee, and in color like the yellow-jacket, but are not more than one-fifth as large as a bumble-bee, and perhaps its body is longer in proportion than that of its "big cousin." The queen is really beautiful and differs in shape from the workers in the same way that ordinary queens differ; but the bees are much more vigorous and can cling to objects with greater tenacity than any other insect that we have ever seen.

Convention Notices.

The Southern Illinois Bee-Keepers' Association will meet at Duquoin, in the Opera House on Thursday, Nov. 13, 1884. All are cordially invited. F. H. KENNEDY, Sec.

WM. LITTLE, Pres.

The Central Illinois Bee-Keepers' Association will hold its next annual meeting in Bloomington, Ill., on the second Wednesday in January, 1885, at 9 a. m.

W. B. LAWRENCE, Sec.

Honey and Beeswax Market.

OFFICE OF THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL.
Monday, 10 a. m., Nov. 5, 1884.

The following are the latest quotations for honey and beeswax received up to this hour:

CINCINNATI.

HONEY.—Nothing stirring in the market for the last few weeks. The approach of cooler weather is expected to impart more life to the trade. Comb honey sells at 16c. in the jobbing way, and brings 14@15c. on arrival for choice. Offerings exceed the demand. Extracted honey has commenced to accumulate, but demand is fair for small packages for table-use, as well as for darker grades in barrels. It brings 6@9c. on arrival.

BEESWAX.—Is dull at 26@28c. on arrival.

C. F. MUTH, Freeman & Central Ave.

NEW YORK.

HONEY.—As we have already commenced receiving consignments of this year's crop of honey, we feel safe in making the following quotations: Fancy white comb, 1-lb., 18@20c., 2-lb., 16@18c.; fair to good, 1 and 2-lb., 14@16c.; fancy buckwheat, 1-lb., 12@13c., 2-lb., 11@12c.; ordinary grades of dark, 1 and 2-lb., 11@11½c. Extracted white choice, in kegs or small barrels, 8½@9c., buckwheat, 6½@7c.

BEESWAX.—Prime yellow, 30@31c.

MCCAUL & HILDRETH, 34 Hudson St.

CHICAGO.

HONEY.—Comb honey has been taken with freedom by the trade this week, but 15@16c. is the best price obtainable for a fancy article of comb honey in frames. Some lots bring from 14 to 15c. when in good order. Stock of comb honey is not large at present. Extracted, 7@8c. for new.

BEESWAX.—For fair to yellow, 28@30c.

R. A. BURNETT, 161 South Water St.

SAN FRANCISCO.

HONEY.—Good to choice qualities are selling slowly, mostly in a jobbing way. Inferior grades are neglected. The market is weak at the quotations. A sale of 100 cases extracted, mostly choice white, was made at 4½c. One hundred tons extracted, barrels and cases, are going aboard ship for Liverpool. White to extra white comb, 9@10c; dark to good, 6@8c.; extracted, choice to extra white, 4½@5c.; dark and candied, 4c.

BEESWAX.—Wholesale, 24@27c.

STEARNS & SMITH, 425 Front Street.

ST. LOUIS.

HONEY.—Steady; demand and supply both small. Comb, 12@14c. per lb., and strained and extracted 8@9½c.

BEESWAX.—Firm at 32@32½c. for choice.

W. T. ANDERSON & CO., 104 N. 3d Street.

CLEVELAND.

HONEY.—Honey is in a little better demand at a little lower price than our former quotations. Whilst the market is still full, we are enabled to place extra lots of strictly white one-lb. sections at about 15c., with an occasional sale at 16c.; 1½ and 2-lb. sections, best white, 14c.; dark and second quality, rather slow at 12 to 14c. For extracted there is no demand.

BEESWAX.—28c.

A. C. KENDEL, 115 Ontario Street.

SAN FRANCISCO.

HONEY.—We quote comb honey in 2 lb. sections, 13@14c; extracted, 6½c.

GEO. W. MEADE & CO., 213 Market.

KANSAS CITY.

HONEY.—The receipts of honey are very large and fine, with a splendid demand, and we are very low in stock of all kinds of comb honey. While the tendency of everything is to lower prices, honey is in active demand, with us, at steady prices. One-half lb. sections, none in the market; one-pound, 16 cents; two-pounds, 14@15 cents; California 2-lbs., 14@16 cents. Choice California extracted is selling at 7@9 cents per lb.

BEESWAX.—None in the market.

CLEMONS, CLOON & CO. Successors to Jerome Twichell.

BOSTON.

HONEY.—We quote best white in 1-lb. sections, 18@20c.; 2-lb., 16@18c. Extracted, 8@9c. Unglassed sections sell best.

BEESWAX.—35c.

BLAKE & RIPLEY, 57 Chatham Street.

The Iowa Central Bee-Keepers' Association will hold their annual meeting in the Court House at Winterset, Iowa, on Friday, Nov. 7, 1884. All interested in bee-culture are requested to be present.

J. E. PRYOR, Sec.

A. J. ADKISON, Pres.

CORRESPONDENCE

For the American Bee Journal.

Bee-Stings, Camphor, etc.

DR. G. L. TINKER.○

Mr. C. G. Beitel, on page 681 of the BEE JOURNAL, desires an opinion on the effect of camphor applied to bee-stings. My reply is, that spirits of camphor has probably been applied as a remedy for bee-stings times innumerable, without serious results; but in my opinion it or any other stimulant and irritant is contra-indicated on the principle that adding fuel to fire is never advisable where you wish to put out the fire. Sedatives, and more particularly cooling applications, are indicated. In the list of sedatives, belladonna and hot water rank first; and among cooling applications, ice, cold water, clay, etc., are best. Non-stimulating alkalies locally and internally are useful.

The primary effect of a large number of stings, and possibly sometimes of only one in very susceptible persons, is to powerfully depress the nervous system, to impede and even to stagnate the circulation of the blood. The reduction of temperature is marked, and a chill or intermittent rigors may supervene, the skin meantime becoming mottled as in the poisoning by some kinds of animals. These symptoms are the indications for strong stimulants internally, like whisky. If reaction is established, recovery is generally assured; but it is followed speedily by a very frequent pulse and a very high temperature, much swelling and a peculiar itching sensation with more or less pain and heat in the affected parts. These symptoms indicate sedatives internally, like belladonna, aconite and nitrate of potassa, to control the active capillary circulation, and locally, ice, cold water, or other cooling applications; especially should the head be kept cool.

Recovery takes place in 24 to 48 hours from the active symptoms, leaving swelling, itching, and stiffness of the parts stung, for several days afterward. The patient should be kept as quiet as possible, and in a cool place until the swelling subsides. The above is the treatment which I have successfully followed in severe cases.

In the case of Mrs. Sturdevant, alluded to on page 636, it seems probable that the relation of cause and effect, as held by the physician in attendance, was well taken. However, the aggravating effect of the spirits of camphor may have precipitated a fatal result. The notable feature of this case is the point at which the sting was received. The physician, probably, in locating it so accurately, had in view the possibility of the large sensory nerve (the *superior maxillary*, which emerges from the *infra-orbital foramen* at or near the point entered by the sting) being

punctured. It is my opinion that this nerve, or some part of the *infra-orbital plexus* joining with it, and which could be reached by a bee's sting, was so penetrated and the poison lodged in its substance. Such an accident would produce a powerful impression upon the great life-centre, the *medulla oblongata*, with which the nerve communicates by a very short route. Probably the most dangerous point where one can be stung is just beneath the eyes.

Care should be taken in working with ugly colonies, not to leave them in a mood, as is too often the case, to attack any one. Persons passing near are liable to be stung by them unexpectedly and seriously. I would advise the superseding of all ugly colonies promptly; but if they are to be kept and handled, they should first be thoroughly smoked with tobacco before opening the hives. I use Scotch snuff thinly spread upon dry cotton-cloth; roll it up, set fire to the roll, and put it into the smoker. It takes the fight all out of the ugliest colony in short order, and they are not apt to volunteer an attack for a week afterwards. Tobacco does not seem to do them any harm. By the way, the Germans, and the German hybrids are the only bees which have, in my experience, required the use of much smoke.

In answer to Mr. Wismer, on page 635, I will say that the animal scent of bees and the odor of bee-poison are quite different. The first may be readily detected on any evening in summer, when the bees are briskly fanning at the entrance; the latter, on opening a hive on a cool day, when numbers of the bees will elevate and protrude their stings, at the ends of which may be seen a tiny drop of the poison. I would ask Mr. Wismer whether he thinks that the venom of a bee's sting and the acid secreted in the stomach of the bee, are identical? If not, I am unable to see the point in the question he propounds.

Again, it is improbable that bees ever deposit the poison of their stings in the honey; nor do I believe, as has been suggested, that sealed honey is ever coated over or permeated by it in any way. I am sure that I have taken hundreds of pounds of comb honey without a particle of the poison getting upon it while taking it off. It is not at all likely that the cause of disagreement of honey with some people is due in any way to the venom of bees' stings.

In this connection I desire to thank Mr. Wismer for bringing to the notice of bee-keepers, not only other cases where bees have perished upon winter stores exclusively of sugar or syrup, but for the presentation of several cases in which bee-diarrhœa has resulted where nothing but sugar stores were provided.

New Philadelphia, Ohio.

☞ The bee-keepers of McDonough and adjoining counties are requested to meet at Bushnell, Ill., on Nov. 20, 1884, for the purpose of organizing a bee-keepers' association.

J. G. NORTON.

Country Gentleman.

After-Swarming.

W. Z. HUTCHINSON.○

The first swarm which leaves a hive is called a "first" or "prime" swarm, and it does not usually issue until several queen-cells are well under way, and perhaps one or more of them sealed over. As soon as the first queen hatches, if a flow of honey continues, she leads off a second, or "after-swarm," and as the young queens continue to hatch, they also continue to lead off after-swarms, the number which issue depending upon the yield of honey, the amount of brood left in the hive by the prime swarm, and the weather. Of course, each successive swarm is smaller than the preceding one, the last one often not containing a pint of bees, and if hived in the usual manner, would amount to nothing; but by hiving it upon empty combs, and perhaps giving it a frame or two of hatching brood, and feeding it a few pounds of sugar syrup, even if it does not secure a sufficient amount of honey for winter stores, it can usually be brought into good condition for passing the winter; and having a young and vigorous queen, it is almost certain to prove an excellent colony during the succeeding season.

One peculiarity about after-swarms is, that they are likely to issue at almost any time of the day, or in almost any kind of weather, instead of choosing the middle of a fine day, as does a prime swarm; they also go farther from the hive to cluster, or perhaps go off without clustering.

When honey is more desirable than increase, even prime swarms are not welcomed by some bee-keepers, while each after-swarm is looked upon as a misfortune. One method of preventing after-swarming is to open the old hive after the first swarm has issued, and cut out all the queen-cells except one. The objections to this is the trouble of performing the operation; and, if the cell which is left fails to produce a perfect queen, the colony is left hopelessly queenless. Giving the old colony a laying queen, as soon as the first swarm has left, will usually prevent after-swarming, at least for the time being, as the queen will at once destroy all the queen-cells; but as soon as the hive becomes populous, she will often lead out a swarm. Giving the old colony a newly-hatched queen, or a queen-cell nearly ready to hatch, will also prevent after-swarming, and is preferable to giving it a laying queen, unless increase is desirable. A newly-hatched queen, or a queen-cell ready to hatch, is of little value, while a laying-queen is worth at least one dollar, and the colony, not having a laying-queen until the young queen is fertilized and laying, does not become populous quite as soon, and, consequently, is less inclined to swarm. A colony with a young laying-queen, is not so apt to swarm as one with an old queen.

The writer has, the present season, practiced to a considerable extent, this method of preventing after-

swarming; that is, giving the parent colony a mature queen-cell soon after it has cast a swarm, and in no instance has a colony thus treated swarmed again. He has a small slate hanging upon a nail driven into the back of each hive, and when a swarm issues, the date is marked upon the slate. He has learned by experience that more of the young queens hatch sooner than the sixth day after a swarm has issued, usually about the seventh or eighth day; and, when a colony from which no after-swarms are wanted, casts a swarm, it is an easy matter, by examining the dates upon the slates, to find a colony which has swarmed six or seven days previous, from which to obtain a queen-cell nearly ready to hatch, to give to the colony which has just swarmed.

Another method of preventing after-swarming, is to place the new swarm upon the old stand, removing the parent colony to a new location. The flying bees all return to the old location, and join the new swarm, which so reduces the strength of the old colony that it often casts no second swarm. The writer, however, carries this method one step farther, and makes of it a complete success; in fact, it is his favorite method of preventing after-swarming, and is as follows:

The new swarm is hived in a new hive and placed upon the old stand, but, instead of carrying the old hive to a distant new location, it is placed beside the new swarm, the rear of the hive being in contact with the new hive, but the front turned to one side at an angle of 45°. So far as the flying bees are concerned, the old hive occupies a new location fully as much as though it had been carried away rods distant, for they all enter the new hive on the old stand. Each day the old hive is slightly turned toward the new hive, until, at the sixth day, it stands close beside and parallel with it. The bees of each hive recognize and enter their respective homes, but let either hive be removed, and all the flying bees will enter the hive left upon the old location. On the seventh day, the old hive is picked up and carried to a distant stand, when, of course, all the flying bees join the new colony upon the old stand, leaving the old colony so reduced in numbers just at the time when the young queens are hatching, that all thoughts of swarming are abandoned, the first queen that hatches biting into and destroying the remaining queen-cells, together with their occupants. If several queens hatch at about the same time, there are royal combats which result in the "survival of the fittest."

When this method is adopted, the honey-boxes should be removed from the old hive to the new one at the time of hiving the swarm. The great mass of workers will then be where the honey-boxes are, which is as it should be. In the writer's opinion it is better always to put on boxes at the time of hiving a swarm, and then contract the brood-nest to such an extent as to crowd some of the bees into the boxes. (When this is done,

unless a queen-excluding honey-board is used, the queen will often make mischief by invading the surplus department.) A delay of even 24 hours in giving boxes to a newly-hived swarm is often fatal to securing the best results; as, where bees commence work when hived, there they will continue to work until they are compelled for lack of room to work somewhere else; if given boxes at the time of hiving, and crowded into them, they will commence work in both them and the brood-nests, and all will go well. The only reason why the writer did not practice the last-described method exclusively the present season is, that he had 25 cumbersome chaff-hives which were extremely difficult of removal; hence, when a swarm issued from a chaff-hive, the colony was given a mature queen-cell taken from one of the other hives which had just been removed to a new stand.

Some bee-keepers manage after-swarms by hiving each one upon sheets of foundation, and placing the hive containing it, by the side of the parent colony. If another one issues from the same colony, it is hived in the same manner as the first, and placed upon the opposite side of the old colony. As soon as one of the young queens is found laying, all the bees are shaken down in front of the old hive, and the drawn-out combs of foundation put away for future use.

The point to be considered, in many localities, is this: The main honey-harvest is of short duration, not usually more than six weeks, and to secure the best results, there must be an abundance of workers, during this period, in the hive where the honey-boxes are. If the body of workers is divided up, by swarming and after-swarming, into mere squads, the harvest is ended ere any of them have recruited their ranks sufficiently to gather and store it in proper shape for market.

Rogersville, Mich.

For the American Bee Journal

Pollen and Hibernation Theories.

JAMES HEDDON. ♀

Many observations have puzzled me to harmonize perfectly with the "pollen theory," and that is the reason why I still call it a "theory." Let us look fairly at Dr. Miller's puzzle on page 683.

Are we not all well aware that bees have, for many years, wintered well with pollen in their combs? That they oft-times starve before they will touch it? That in many cases, as the honey gave out, they eat the pollen (bee-bread) and quickly die with diarrhœa? Many thought, after witnessing such a phenomenon, that "starvation was the cause of bee-diarrhœa."

We know that starvation is no direct cause, but we believe it to be the consumption of bee-bread in confinement. In the diarrhetic excreta we find pollen, not starvation.

Now, Doctor, none of us have crawled into a hive and passed the

winter with the bees. We have seen but very little of their actions during confinement, from without. We depend much upon rational and logical theorizing. We can easily imagine many reasons why, in one case, the bees would commence on the bee-bread just where the honey left off, and in another stop all consumption when the supply of honey ceased. What I am trying to find is a case where the intestines of the bees become loaded with fecal matter without the presence of bee-bread, or honey laden with floating pollen. As soon as I find such a case, I will give up my theory and at once announce it, so that we may waste no more time and money in this line, but throw all our energies in another, and what we deem the most profitable direction.

Sometimes when a cell containing pollen below and honey on top is extracted of its honey, we find a dried, glazed surface upon the pollen, making a perfect division between the two commodities; at other times we find no such glazed division, but find that the honey has soaked into the pollen, as it were, and when we extract the honey, some of the top portion of the pollen comes out with the honey and injures its flavor. This is rarely seen except when extracting combs from which bees perished during the winter. Think of these things.

THE HIBERNATION THEORY.

Just as I feared, there now seems to be a misunderstanding regarding what different persons mean by hibernation. As I understood Mr. Clarke's first article on that subject, he had what was to me a "new" and false theory. As I understand him now, he has an old, well-known, and true theory. He told us some time ago that to get bees into this hibernating state, we must have a low temperature; cold, and, as he thought it necessary that they should often arouse from that hibernating condition, he would occasionally advocate the other extreme. From this I inferred that he believed that circulation, motion, and heat-throwing-off and producing power all ceased, as is the case with wasps which pass the winter in a state of perfect torpor and isolation.

I do not claim to know, but I do not believe that our colonizing bees ever enter for one moment into any such condition. If Mr. Clarke will hold to this former ground, he will have a new theory, and one on which we radically differ; but if he only holds to the theory that bees often do winter the best and the cheapest when they enter an almost perfect state of quietude (one in which they consume very little food, hardly making a sound or motion of the air; one which is aided by an even cool temperature, but not a low or changing temperature; one in which at all times circulation is going on in their bodies, the same bodies exuding warmth—bodies which will move at once if touched, and always possessing sensation), then we will agree in regard to the best condition for bees during winter. But the theory is not

new, but old and well-known to us all, and is a theory of effects and not causes.

To show the ground which Mr. Clarke must take to get up an opposition with me, or any legal claims to newness of theory, I will quote one paragraph from the *Kansas Bee-Keeper* for April 1884, which is several months older than his first article on the hibernation subject.

"Now, for the 'pollen theory.' What is it? In short it is this: The bee, unlike many other insects, exists in two different states during its life, viz: The fully-animated, and the 'semi-hibernation.' It would seem that any animal, existing at different times, in such extremely different states, would require for success, extremely different conditions and food. This is just what we find to be the facts in the case. In summer the bees are active, and require a home and food adapted to the needs of activity; in winter, when in the quiescent state, they require surroundings and food adapted to that condition. As above stated, these conditions differ widely."

Now, I would like to know what is new in Mr. Clarke's theory.

Dowagiac, Mich.

For the American Bee Journal.

Too Much Drone-Comb.

G. M. DOOLITTLE. ☺

A party writes, saying, "I have many frames of comb in which I find both drone and worker comb. How shall I proceed to get rid of the drone-comb, and not have the bees build the same kind in again? Please answer in the BEE JOURNAL."

Too much drone-comb in the brood-chamber is a very serious damage to the honey crop, as drones are only useless consumers, being of no value except to fertilize the queens; and in these days of progression, no person can afford to allow a promiscuous production of drones. One or two square inches of drone-comb is all that should be allowed in any hive, except in one or two containing the choicest colonies, which should have enough drone-comb to rear all the drones that are needed in the apiary.

As all colonies will have a little drone-brood, anyway, even if they have to cut down worker-comb to get a place to build comb for it, it is well to let each colony have about 2 square inches of drone-comb, which should be all in one frame. This frame should be marked so that where the production of all kinds of drones is not wished, it can be lifted from the hive every 20 days, and the heads of the drones shaved off.

From the above it will be seen that our correspondent has asked a very pertinent question, as the bees will nearly always again fill the place, where drone-comb has been cut out, with comb of the same sort. The only way I know of to stop their doing this, is either to give the combs having drone-comb removed from them, to nuclei having a young queen (as

such nuclei will always build worker-comb), or after cutting out the drone-comb, fit worker-comb in its place. While the latter does not give as perfect combs as the former, it has in its favor the immediate use of the combs in full colonies; for it is often mid-summer before many nuclei are strong enough to build combs at the bottom of the frames, where most drone-comb is found. Hence, I generally use the fitting-in plan, in doing such work.

If there is a large patch of drone-comb in a frame, I cut it out with a narrow-bladed, sharp knife, after which the frame is laid over another frame of comb, which has some drone-comb in it also, so as not to spoil a good comb. I lay it so that the empty space comes over the worker-comb, when the lower comb is worked a trifle larger than the space to be filled, after which the marked piece is cut out and pressed into the place where the drone-comb came from. If the piece should happen to be a little small, a few drops of melted beeswax will hold it in place till the bees fasten it.

For small patches, from an inch to 4 inches in diameter, I use punches of the proper size, made of old fruit cans. These can be found about hotels if canned fruit is not used in your own family, and need not cost anything. When you have collected your different sizes, place the ends on a hot stove when the solder will melt, thus letting the top and bottom off, as you place either end on the stove. After the tops and bottoms are off, make the whole circumference of one end sharp, with a file or grindstone, sharpening wholly from the outside. Now lay the comb down flat on a smooth board, and with the right-sized punch, cut out the patch of drone-comb by twirling the punch or can around as you press down on it. Now push out this drone-comb, and with the same punch, and in the same way, cut out from some discarded frame a piece of worker-comb, which will, of course, exactly fit the place you took the drone-comb from. In this way it is no great task to rid all the frames of drone-comb. If any have honey in them so you cannot tell where the different kinds of comb commence or leave off, you will have to wait until the honey is taken out by the bees, when these can be fixed also.

In this way I go over all my combs, nearly every spring, just after pollen becomes plenty, getting out the drone-combs. "But," says one, "your plan cannot be effectual, or you would not need to thus go over your combs every year." To such an one I would say, that combs are not always like a piece of iron which will stay for years as first made; but with me the mice sometimes will get in a hive in the winter, in spite of all precaution, and gnaw a hole into the combs, which hole the bees fill with drone-comb unless I get the start of them and fill it with worker-comb, as above described.

Then, again, the moth-larva will get in while extra combs are stored away, or the bees, in cutting down

old queen-cells, or removing old, moldy bee-bread, will cut out the comb also; and by numerous ways drone-comb will get in after the combs are comparatively perfect; hence, it requires vigilance in this as well as in other things, if we would reap a reward. One of the objections I have to wired frames, is their liability, from some of the above causes, to get drone-comb in them, in which case it is not as easily replaced with worker-comb as is the case where no wire is used.

Borodino, N. Y.

SELECTIONS FROM OUR LETTER BOX

Report of Honey Crop for 1884.

I commenced the season with 52 colonies, spring count, and increased them to 56 colonies. I have taken 910 pounds of comb honey from 34 colonies, 160 pounds of extracted honey, and 10 pounds of beeswax. Every colony is in good condition, and each has at least 50 pounds of good, capped honey to winter on. To-day I covered all the brood-chambers with old rags, and I will winter my bees on the summer stands. The bees have failed to bring me in a profit this year, the cause of the failure being beyond their or my power, so I prepared them for another winter, hoping for brighter prospects in the season of 1885.

R. M. OSBORN. ♀

Kane, Ill., Oct. 22, 1884.

Getting Sections Completely Filled.

At the Chicago Convention, Mr. Heddon is reported to be working out a plan to get sections completely filled with honey. Some years ago, when I was engaged in the bee-business, I used to let my bees build and store in the ordinary frames; then, with a sharp knife I cut the combs from these frames, laid them gently on a piece of clean blanket, re-cut them to the sizes required, slipped the sections over the pieces, and in the evening placed them in the hive to have the bees dry them off. Early on the next morning, I removed them. The plan worked well, was not much trouble after I got used to it, and the sections looked neater and cleaner than I could get them in any other way. Perhaps this may be Mr. Heddon's plan.

A. MALONE.

Garden Island, Ont., Oct. 25, 1884.

Cure for Bee-Stings.

At the late meeting of the Northwestern Bee-Keepers' Association, we notice various remedies for bee-stings, nearly all of which we have tried, but have found nothing so effective as the following: Take equal parts of the tincture of aconite, laudanum and chloroform, bathe the wound once or twice, and the pain and swelling will leave. For many years as druggist, I have known of

this remedy being used successfully in neuralgia and other like diseases. Three years ago, in working in my wife's apiary, we first tried this remedy, and it was a success, although we seldom use anything unless stung in the face; and such are about all who wish a remedy for bee-stings. Remember this and try the recipe next season.

M. F. TATMAN. C.
Rossville, Kans., Oct. 23, 1884.

My Report for 1884.

The spring of 1884 was cold, windy and rainy, and it remained so up to July, being intermingled with only a few warm days. Bees did not gather much honey during fruit blossom, as it was almost too cold and rainy. White clover blossoms were plenty, but they had a brownish appearance and secreted very little honey. Bees just got enough honey to make them crazy for swarming, which they commenced on June 1, and kept it up till July 18, and at that time the flow of honey ceased from all sources; weak colonies had to be fed up to Aug. 20, when Spanish-needle made its appearance; and what a sight it was to see the fields covered with yellow flowers. The colonies which were strong at that time, stored considerable surplus honey of a very good quality; and weak colonies gathered enough to last them during winter. I commenced, last spring, with 63 colonies, 23 of them being very weak, and the balance were in good condition. I have increased them to 100 colonies, mostly by natural swarming. I obtained 200 pounds of comb honey from white clover, and 250 pounds of extracted, some of it being honey-dew, which I fed back to the weak colonies during the honey-drought. My surplus fall honey amounts to 420 pounds of comb, and 1,400 pounds of extracted, making in all, 2,270 pounds for the season, being an average of 36 pounds per colony, or one-third of an average crop. I have made inquiries of my neighbor bee-keepers, and find that some have received no surplus honey. Some of their colonies are very weak in bees, and have but little honey, and, I think, will hardly live through the winter. Their bees are all blacks; mine are Italians, Holy Lands, Cyprians and hybrids.

JOHN NEBEL. C.
High Hill, Mo., Oct. 27, 1884.

Wintering Bees in "Clamps."

In the fall of 1883, I buried 8 colonies of bees just as we bury potatoes in Iowa to keep them from freezing. Two of them were in 1½-story Langstroth hives, with the honey-boards on, and the holes in the honey-boards open. The other 6 colonies were in 1-story hives with quilts and covers on the tops of the frames. They were put into the clamp on Nov. 28, and taken out on March 25, 1884. Eighteen inches of earth, and 3 feet of coarse hay was on top of the hives, and no ventilation was given to the 6 colonies. The 2 that had ventilation through the honey-boards, wintered

the best. I never saw bees in better condition than they were in March. The others which had no ventilation at the top, did not winter as well, but came out in better condition, on an average, than those which were wintered on the summer stand; but those taken out of the clamp dwindled so that on May 1, they were the weakest in the apiary. One of the 8 colonies I got out of the woods during the last of October, 1883. I hived them on three frames about one-half full of honey, and they staid on the summer stands for six weeks before I put them into the clamp. I do not think that they had over 6 pounds of honey. When I took them out in the spring, they did not have one drop of honey in any shape, but had brood in two combs, and young bees hatched. Two other colonies had no brood in any stage, and I thought that they had no queens, but on the next day I examined them and found that the queens had just commenced laying, and I watched them very closely to see whether Mr. L. C. Johnson, of Fountain City, Ind., was correct in his article on page 592 of the BEE JOURNAL for 1883. These bees were Cyprians crossed with Italians, and the bees were hatched in 17½ days. I made another test on a Cyprian queen whose eggs hatched bees in the same length of time, and queens in 12 days. In the first test I did not try to rear queens. On Oct. 15, 1884, I put 8 colonies of bees into "clamps." They were late swarms; some had not more than 1 pound of honey, and the heaviest had not more than 3 pounds. I knew that they would die if left on the summer stands, but I thought that if I could get them to hibernate, that they might winter. Am I correct?

WM. MALONE. Q
Oakley, Iowa, Oct. 24, 1884.

Report for the Season.

Last spring I commenced with 21 colonies of bees in box-hives, and lost two by robbing. When the bees first began to bring in pollen, I thought it best to feed them a little; so I made some bee-feeders, put a pound of sugar syrup into each, and at sundown I put them on the hives. On the next morning before sunrise, I took them off, and the feed was all gone. So far all was well; but right here I will say that this was, I think, the most important day of the season. Box-hives with auger holes in their tops are not very good things to feed on; and, although, I tried to be very careful with both feed and bees, at 8 a. m. I had every colony in the yard robbing and being robbed. You who have had experience with bee-robbing can have some idea of what I did and what I did not do, as I had no veil, no smoker—in fact I did not have anything that I needed; and to you who know nothing about robbing bees, it would be no use for me to tell what I did, for you might have some doubts about it. However, night found me very tired, 2 colonies less, and a wiser man. During the season I lost several swarms by their going off. They would swarm out, fly above the apple

trees, circle a few times, and then leave without settling. I administered everything that I had read or heard of, but it seemed only to drive them away the quicker. I believe that if a swarm intends to cluster, they will do so without any help; and if they intend to leave, they will do that also without help. I think that I had my bees built up pretty strong by the time white clover blossomed, but they did not get into the sections for two weeks, and then they were rather slow about it. There was a good bloom of basswood, but it only lasted about six days, and four days of that time were cold and rainy. Between showers, the bees would come out as though they were swarming, but before they could load up and get back, there would be a shower; and as the bees had to cross the river, I think I lost lots of them after the rain was over, for they would be floating thickly on the water. I did not get one-third of a crop of honey. My bees did better than the most of the bees near me. I increased them to 32 colonies, and would have secured about 500 pounds of comb honey had it not been stolen. I took off about 160 pounds of honey, and left, as I thought, 400 pounds on the hives. I went away from home over night, and when I returned there was not a full section in the yard; they had stolen all of it, and had done a clean job, so much so that I have yet gotten no track of the thieves. If I did not gain anything in dollars and cents, I learned something.

DAVE H. LISLE. C.
Chebanse, Ill., Oct. 25, 1884.

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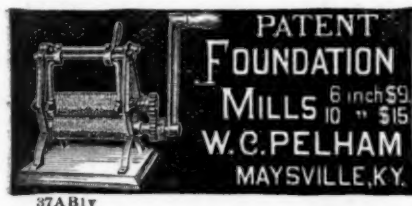
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